

U.S. Military Academy - Married Enlisted Men's
Quarters No. 344
East side of Washington Road, north of
intersection with Buckner Hill Loop
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-53

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

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SC-102PC

HABS No. NY-5708-53 153-
U.S.M.A. No. 344

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - MARRIED ENLISTED MEN'S QUARTERS NO. 344

LOCATION: East side of Washington Road, north of intersection with Buckner Hill Loop, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.586050.4583460.

PRESENT OWNER AND OCCUPANT: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE: Family Housing - Non-Commissioned Officer.

SIGNIFICANCE: Quarters No. 344 is an example of late 19th century housing to accommodate the expansion at the military post at West Point. Numerous similar structures were built at the time in the area north of the cemetery, separating the men of the post from the cadets of the Academy.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: ca. 1890 (Lange)
2. Architect: Presumably the Army Quartermaster's Office.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Unknown.
5. Alterations and additions: There is one shed roof addition on the rear.

B. Historical Context: For the historical and architectural context of this building within the overall development of West Point see HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: Quarters No. 344 is a vernacular brick structure that was able to be rapidly constructed to accommodate the expanding number of personnel in the late 19th century. While it has no outstanding

architectural merit, its simplicity of form and detailing still provides a comfortable appearance for displaying its residential character.

2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Quarters No. 344 is a rectangular structure, approximately 40' x 25' with four bays on the front and two on the sides. The building is a duplex created by an interior east-west party wall in the center. To the rear is a later, rectangular shed roof addition approximately 40' x 10' that exists at the basement and first levels only.
2. Foundation: The main structure has brick foundation walls, while the addition to the rear has concrete block foundation walls.
3. Walls: The main structure has a red brick facing with a five-course American bond and segmental brick arches made of two rows of headers over the windows. The rear addition has clapboard siding over its wood frame construction.
4. Structural systems: Brick load-bearing walls with a brick facing are used for the exterior walls, while the flooring system is composed of wood joists and the roof system has wood rafters.
5. Porches, chimneys: Two gable roof entry porches cover the two main entryways on the facade. The roof is supported by 6" x 6" wood posts and triangular brackets with a hole drilled through it. The roof is covered by asphalt shingles and the floor is wood.

Two rear porches are incorporated into the shed addition. Each is raised one story above the ground level, providing access to the first floor of the building.

One square brick chimney protrudes from the center of the roof ridge line. The brick courses step out at the top to create a "cap," and the chimney itself is rotated 45°.

6. Openings:
 - a. Doors: Four doorways lead into Quarters No. 344; two main entries on the north and south ends of the west facade and two inside the rear shed addition. The main entry doors are wood with three horizontal wood panels below and a single large light of glass above. The rear doors were inaccessible for surveying.
 - b. Windows: Six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows correspond to the northern unit of the duplex, while two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows correspond to the southern unit. The sills for the windows in the original building are of stone, while the top of the openings has a segmental arch.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

- b. Eaves: Exposed wood rafters protrude below the open eaves.
- C. Description of the Interior: Quarters No. 344 was inaccessible for surveying, and so no information can be provided.
- D. Site:
 - 1. General setting and orientation: Quarters No. 344 is oriented west toward Washington Road. The land rises to the front, putting the house below Washington Road. A low stone retaining wall runs along the western property line. To the north and south are other small duplex units, each lower than the one next to it as the land slopes down to the south. To the east the land also continues to slope downward, with a small grass covered backyard existing between the house and Buckner Loop behind. Beyond the roadway and further down the hill is a large shopping complex. Other than one large deciduous tree near the sidewalk in the front of the house, the site is exposed.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: There are no known original drawings. Subsequent alteration drawings are located in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy.
- B. Early Views: Early photographs are located in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. Some of these are reproduced in the Grashof and Lange volumes of this project.
- C. Bibliography:
 - 1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.
 - 2. Secondary and published sources:

Grashof, Bethanie C. "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Lange, Robie S. "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr. and Timothy Lindblad, architectural historians, in 1982-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1982 and 1984.